

Executive Registry

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17 November 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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SUBJECT: Meeting with The Honorable Jack Vaughn
Director of the Peace Corps

As requested by the Director, I met with Jack Vaughn at my house last evening. He brought with him his Deputy, Mr. Brent Ashabrunner. The following topics were covered:

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1. We discussed the possibility that "Ramparts Magazine" may run a story charging collusion between the Peace Corps and CIA. The only specifics that we know about are charges that three unidentified Peace Corps employees in Latin America were approached by CIA for recruitment purposes and that the U. S. Cooperative League, which has trained Peace Corps personnel, was funded by the Agency in the past. I told Mr. Vaughn that we had checked and found no instances of attempted recruitment. Mr. Vaughn stated that he expected to have an advance copy of the story and would let me see it immediately. He plans to reply to press inquiries with a statement that these allegations have been made in the past, primarily by the Communists, and that none of them have had any foundation. Vaughn expressed the hope that we, if queried, could go beyond our usual "no comment" and make it clear that we, as a matter of policy, have no dealings with the Peace Corps. I said that in this case I believed we could do that.

2. I showed Vaughn and Ashabrunner a document prepared by the SB Division which indicates that in a number of recent situations, the Soviets have attempted to compromise and recruit Peace Corps personnel. I indicated that we had no evidence they had been successful but I suggested to Vaughn that he might want to include some defensive briefing on this problem in his training program. He was grateful for the advice and said he would look into it.

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